

## **COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2010 – 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Rooms 1&2  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

**CHOICE Board Members in Attendance:** Prudence Twigg, Jean Macdonald, Noble Stallons, John Holmes, Representative Ed Clere, Adrienne Shields, Dr. Timothy Janis

**CHOICE Board Members Absent:** Senator Vaneta Becker, Senator Jean Breaux, Dorian Maples, Pete Emigh, Kay Crawford, Blake Jackson

**Visitors in Attendance:** Orion Bell, Jenny Hamilton, Ruth Ratzlaff, Justine Currie, Ann Allen, Cindy Wides, Paul Chase, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Becky Johnson, Rebecca Carter, John Cardwell, Celeste Stinson, Jade Luchauer, Willie Poindexter

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Prudence Twigg called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting, with the correction of Representative Clere's first name. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

**Division of Aging Update:** Director Faith Laird presented the Division of Aging update. The Aged and Disabled Waiver slots are full. In order to get additional Waiver slots from CMS, the Division would have to show that they can financially support the slots. Currently, the Division of Aging is financially over-extended on Waiver and cannot support additional slots. At the beginning of the new fiscal year, on July 1, additional Aged and Disabled Waiver slots will open. Unfortunately, until this time, the closed Aged and Disabled Waiver will lead to increased demand for services under other funding sources, including CHOICE.

Director Laird discussed House Bill 1325, which included presumptive eligibility by the Area Agencies on Aging. AARP held a press conference in support of the bill and Director Laird expressed concern regarding one of the clients highlighted in the press conference. It was indicated that the client could not get CHOICE services but the client's case management notes state that the client refused CHOICE services while waiting for Medicaid eligibility because he was required to pay a cost share for his services. This means that the client had assets or income that made him eligible to receive services, provided he paid a cost share.

Director Laird also discussed an AARP article that states Indiana is spending just 5% of its long term care expenditures on home and community based services. Director Laird disputed that figure and referenced a recent article from Stateline.org, "States Help Seniors Age At Home," that said Indiana is spending 24% of its long term care expenditures on home and community based services. Representative Clere asked that the Stateline.org article and AARP article be sent to the CHOICE Board members.

**Old Business:** Celeste Stinson informed the Board that the 2009 CHOICE Annual Report is now available on the Division of Aging's website. She also provided a handout that listed current CHOICE waitlist numbers, including the changes in number of waitlist clients from the previous quarter. There was discussion regarding why the CHOICE waitlist numbers vary widely by AAA. Celeste read a statement from Area 5 and three other AAA representatives, from Areas 3, 6, and 8, spoke as to their unique needs within their community and how that affects their CHOICE waitlist numbers. There was also discussion on what services CHOICE waitlist clients are awaiting.

Celeste provided a handout that detailed CHOICE expenditures for fiscal year 2009, as requested by the CHOICE Board. Two AAAs, Areas 12 and 13, spent 100% of their CHOICE allocation and many other agencies came very close. All agencies spent at least 80% of their CHOICE allocation for fiscal year 2009.

Celeste reported that the Money Follows the Person program had 60 successful transitions back into the community with an additional 40 people who were in the process of being transitioned.

**New Business:** Jean Macdonald discussed HB 1288, which would eliminate the CHOICE Board. She recommended that the other Board members urge their elected officials to keep the Board due to its representation of the aging population.

Noble Stallons also mentioned SB 287, which discusses Communities for Life. There was discussion about the NORCs.

**Public Comments:** Jenny Hamilton from Area 6 provided an update on a client discussed at the previous meeting. She stated that the client in question was on the Aged and Disabled Waiver, not CHOICE. The situation has since been resolved and the client is now receiving services.

Orion Bell, Executive Director of CICOA, recommended that the unspent CHOICE dollars be reallocated to pay for Waiver slots.

Rebecca Carter, Executive Director of the Indiana Assisted Living Association, spoke about working with the Division of Aging to increase the number of Assisted Living Waiver providers. She stated they would like to support opening Waiver slots and getting additional slots.

John Cardwell of the Indiana Home Care Task Force mentioned several bills that are in the General Assembly, specifically highlighting bills that discuss the respective topics of Traumatic Brain Injury and the CHOICE Board.

Paul Chase from AARP spoke about his support of the continuation of the CHOICE Board. He also discussed AARP's report that was mentioned by Division of Aging Director Faith Laird. As Representative Clere requested, Paul said he would send the report to Celeste Stinson, who will forward it on to the CHOICE Board.

**Public Comments:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.